
Volume 49
Issue 3 *Dickinson Law Review* - Volume 49,
1944-1945

3-1-1945

Book Review

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Recommended Citation

Book Review, 49 DICK. L. REV. 103 (1945).

Available at: <https://ideas.dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/dlra/vol49/iss3/4>

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PHILADELPHIA LAWYER

By

GEORGE WHARTON PEPPER*

In this book the author narrates the events of his life and expounds his views on a variety of subjects. There are doubtless some who will disagree with some of the conclusions of the author's expositions, but all readers of the narrative will agree that the life of the author has been very busy and dynamic and that the narrative of its events is interesting reading.

The life of the author, although it seems to have been an eminently successful one, has had its frustrations and failures. At least he seems to think so. He states, "as far as tangible results go my Senate term was a waste of time and effort," and in speaking of his career as a lawyer, he says that "there is no great professional achievement to which I can point with pardonable pride." As a churchman he ceased attending the Conventions of the church because of the "obvious determination to use the various agencies of the church for what seemed to him purely secular purposes," and because "the meely-mouthed utterances of some of the bishops" convinced him that such a gathering "was no place for him." He seems to confess his ineptitude as a social welfare worker when he states "In the past I have repeatedly tried to imagine what it is like to be hungry and cold and harrassed by debts, but I have always ended by admitting the inadequacy of mere imagination. Rolling along in a comfortable car, spending my days in congenial work, going back at nightfall to a happy home without fear of landlord or sheriff, I simply could not imagine what it is like to be an elevator boy, or a taxi driver, or a share cropper, or a coal miner, or a veteran too old to be employable, or a man with a sick child or wife and unable to afford medical care or nursing comforts, or a white collar worker conscious of inherent capacity but up against a dead-end with no chance of promotion." The author seems to admit that what he regarded as his greatest achievement, his defeat of the League of Nations, has turned to ashes when he states, "I cherished the vain hope that the next European War would not involve the United States."

Both because of, and in spite of, what the author has written about himself, we reach the conclusion that he is a man with many acquaintances, close friendships, varied interests, and of unremitting effort, and that he has brought to successful fruition a great number of meritorious endeavors.

* J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York. 1944 Pp. XIV, 407.